

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 31. No claims have been added or canceled. Thus, claims 1-38 remain pending in this application.

Acknowledgements

2. This communication is in response to Applicant's communications filed on **05 January 2010**. Amendments to claims 1 and 31 have been entered. No claims have been added or canceled. Rejections made under 35 USC §112, second paragraph and 35 USC §103(a), objections to claim 31 and specification in the last office action have been withdrawn in view of the Applicant's remarks/ amendments. Claims **1-38** are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:
4. The prior art of record (**Nafeh et al** US Pub. No. 2002/0069155, **Bjerre et al** US Pub. No. 2002/0123911 and **Bergkvist**: "The value of time and forecasting of flows in freight transportation", presented at the 41st ERSa congress in Zagreb 2001) teaches a system for facilitating freight shipment between a first geographic location and a second geographic location, said system comprising:
 - computer hardware including a program storage medium; and
 - computer software stored in said storage medium and readable by said computer hardware, said computer software including:
 - code for displaying a browser window, said browser window including at least a first data section configured to display derivative contract data,

- code for receiving shipper assessment of accuracy of said forecast data from said shippers,
- code for sorting said forecast data by geography, code for sorting actual data by geography,
- code for comparing said forecast data with said actual data to calculate a forecast quality index, and
- code for publishing said shipper assessment and said forecast quality index.

5. Even though, the prior art of record teaches the above-mentioned features, the prior art of record fails to teach a system for facilitating freight shipment between a first geographic location and a second geographic location, including the system features of:

- computer hardware including a program storage medium; and
- computer software stored in said storage medium and readable by said computer hardware, said computer software including:
 - code for displaying a browser window, said browser window including at least a first data section configured to display derivative contract data pertaining to shipment capacity offered by carriers between said first geographic location and said second geographic location, said derivative contract data being associated with at least one of an air mode, a sea mode, a train mode, and a truck mode, said browser window further including at least a second data section configured to be viewed simultaneously with said first data section, said second data section displaying forecast data pertaining to demand forecasts between said first geographic location and said second geographic location, said forecast data being provided by shippers,

code for receiving shipper assessment of accuracy of said forecast data from said shippers,

- code for sorting said forecast data by geography, code for sorting actual data by geography,
- code for comparing said forecast data with said actual data to calculate a forecast quality index, and
- code for publishing said shipper assessment and said forecast quality index.

6. For these reasons claims **1, 16 and 31** are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record and claims **2-15, 17-30 and 32-38** are allowed by dependency on allowed claims. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, and to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled Comments on Statement of Reasons for allowance.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- (a) **Bjerre et al** (US Patent No. 2005/0091089) (Apr. 28, 2005) "Common carrier system".
- (b) **Bjerre et al** (US Patent No. 2005/0091090) (Apr. 28, 2005) "Common carrier system".
- (c) **Bjerre et al** (US Patent No. 2005/0091091) (Apr. 28, 2005) "Common carrier system".
- (d) **Bjerre et al** (US Patent No. 2002/0178023) (Nov. 28, 2002) "Common carrier system".

- (e) **Chittenden et al** (US Pub. No. 2004/0015409) (Jan. 22, 2004) "Method, computer system and computer system network".
- (f) **Cowles** (US Patent No. 7,333,942) (Feb. 19, 2008) "Networked international system for organizational electronic commerce".
- (g) **Kwan** (US Patent No. 6,990,467) (Jan. 24, 2006) "Method, apparatus and program for pricing, transferring, buying, selling and exercising of freight cargo options on the World Wide Web".
- (h) **Le et al** (US Pub. No. 2003/0069831) (Apr. 10, 2003) "Integrated method of international trade".
- (i) **Riggs et al** (US Pub. No. 2005/0091100) (Apr. 28, 2005) "Transport logistics systems and methods".
- (j) **Riggs et al** (US Pub. No. 2008/0040144) (Feb. 14, 2008) "Transport logistics systems and methods".
- (k) **Riggs et al** (US Pub. No. 2006/0053027) (Mar. 09, 2006) "Transport logistics systems and methods".
- (l) **Williams et al** (US Pub. No. 2002/0032573) (Mar. 14, 2002) "Apparatus, systems and methods for online, multi-parcel, multi-carrier, multi-service enterprise parcel shipping management".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ed Baird whose telephone number is (571)270-3330. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30 am - 5:00 pm Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles R. Kyle can be reached on 571-272-6746. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ed Baird/
Examiner, Art Unit 3695

/Narayanswamy Subramanian/
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